

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 NRC-05 OES-07 EB-08 EA-10 /164 W
-----089553 231654Z /46

P 231551Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2066

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USINT HAVANA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, SOPN, UR, US, CG

SUBJECT: SOVIET MAY 23 CENTRAL PRESS HITS U.S. AGAIN
ON ZAIRE EVENTS

REF: MOSCOW 11379

SUMMARY: MAY 23 SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS CONTINUES HEAVY AND TENDENTIOUS COVERAGE OF SHABA EVENTS. CENTER-PIECE IS LENGTHY, EXTREMELY CRITICAL, ANTI-U.S. ARTICLE IN PRAVDA BY B. OREKHOV, WHICH, LIKE SERBIN ARTICLE IN MAY 21 PRAVDA, EMPHASIZES RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER CRITICAL OF SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. B. OREKHOV'S MAY 23 PRAVDA ARTICLE ON ZAIRE EVENTS CONTINUES AND, IF ANYTHING, DEEPENS ANTI-U.S. THEME REPORTED IN A. SERBIN'S MAY 21 PRAVDA ARTICLE (REFTEL). OREKHOV'S ARTICLE PULLS OUT VIRTUALLY ALL STOPS IN ATTACKING U.S./NATO POLICY WITH REGARD TO ZAIRE. ARTICLE IS SO FILLED WITH CALUMNY AS TO ALMOST DEFY ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION AND IT DOES DEFY SUMMARIZATION. SINCE DEPT. WILL HAVE FBIS TRANSLATION, EMBASSY WILL NOTE ONLY FOLLOWING BASIC THEMES (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED):

-- AS RESULT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION, BLOOD IS BEING SPILLED IN ZAIRE AND THERE ARE MANY WOUNDED AND KILLED
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IN KOLWEZI REGION AND ELSEWHERE.

-- TALK OF SAVING "LIFE AND PROPERTY" IS ONLY AN EXCUSE FOR INTERVENTION. NO MORE THAN 3,000 FOREIGNERS LIVE IN ZAIRE OF WHOM "ONLY A FEW HUNDRED" ARE IN SHABA PROVINCE. THE THESIS OF SAVING WHITES FROM BLACKS IS RACIST AND SMACKS OF GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY. AT ANY RATE, "IN OUR TECHNOLOGICAL AGE" THE EVACUATION OF SUCH A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHOUT GREAT COMPLICATION AND WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERFERENCE ON SUCH A SCALE. THE REAL HEART OF THE MATTER IS CONCERN IN WASHINGTON AND NATO CAPITALS FOR THE INTERESTS OF THEIR MONOPOLIES WHICH EXPLOIT ZAIRE'S MINERAL WEALTH.

-- IT IS CLEAR FROM THE PRECISE COORDINATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND FROM THE PREPARATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THOSE COUNTRIES BY THE BOURGEOIS PRESS AND BY POLITICAL FIGURES, THAT THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE. AMONG THE "FABRICATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS" DESIGNED TO DEFLECT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM THE PREPARATIONS FOR

DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE WERE:

A) PRESIDENT CARTER'S (MARCH 17) WAKE FOREST SPEECH WHICH WAS DISTINGUISHED BY ITS "ANTI-SOVIET FABRICATIONS" SUCH AS THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ON THE "OMINOUS INCLINATION" OF THE SOVIET UNION TO USE ITS MILITARY POWER FOR INTERFERENCE IN MILITARY CONFLICTS IN AFRICA;

B) ATTEMPTS BY SOME U.S. POLITICAL AND OFFICIAL FIGURES TO ASCRIBE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA INTERFERENCE IN THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT;

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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 OES-07 EB-08 /164 W
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P 231551Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2067

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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C) THE ORGANIZED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WITH REGARD
TO THE "SOVIET-CUBAN DANGER" TO ZAIRE.

-- THE IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE IS ONE MORE
WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT THE "ENDLESS CHATTER" ABOUT
THE DEFENSIVE CHARACTER OF NATO IS A MYTH. IT IS
NOT HIDDEN IN OFFICIAL NATO CIRCLES THAT THE ACTS
OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA ARE COORDINATED
AND DIRECTED BY THE U.S. THROUGH SACEUR - GENERAL HAIG.

-- IN HIS (MAY 19) INTERVIEW WITH U.S. LOCAL
NEWSPAPER EDITORS, PRESIDENT CARTER ADMITTED U.S.
PARTICIPATION IN THE "INVASION" OF ZAIRE; THUS OPEN
MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER
COUNTRIES IS SEEN BY THE U.S. AS A MEANS OF SOLVING
THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THESE COUNTRIES. AND THIS
AFTER ENDLESS TALK ABOUT "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS"
AND AFTER LOUD WASHINGTON ACCUSATIONS AGAINST "OTHER
COUNTRIES" FOR VIOLATION OF THESE RIGHTS.

-- DESPITE THIS OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION, THERE IS
SILENCE ON CAPITOL HILL. SILENCE IS GOLDEN; IN THIS
CASE GOLD EXTORTED FROM THE HEART OF ZAIRE FOR THE
U.S. AND OTHER MONOPOLIES (END UNCLASSIFIED).

2. COMPARED TO OREKHOV'S MASTERPIECE OF DEFAMATION,
OTHER ZAIRE RELATED TASS ARTICLES IN MAY 23 SOVIET
CENTRAL PRESS PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE. FOR THE
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RECORD, WE NOTE THE FOLLOWING THEMES (BEGIN UNCLASSI-
FIED):

-- DESPITE MORE VISIBLE FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARTICIPA-

TION IN INTERVENTION, U.S. HAS CRUCIAL ROLE OF COORDINATION AND AIR LIFT ASSISTANCE.

-- ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS WARNS THAT ANY FOREIGN MILITARY OPERATION ON TERRITORY OF ZAIRE WOULD BE REGARDED AS AN ACT OF WAR. ANGOLAN AMB. ALSO SAYS THAT ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND U.S. THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WILL EXTEND PROTECTION TO ALL EUROPEANS CROSSING ANGOLAN BORDER WHILE BEING EVACUATED FROM SHABA AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

-- OTRAG FACILITIES IN ZAIRE (AND PLANNED LAUNCH AT END OF MAY) SERVES AS THREAT TO CAUSE OF PEACE ON AFRICAN CONTINENT.

-- "HOOLIGAN ATTACK" ON SOVIET EMBASSY IN KINSHASA THREATENED LIFE OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THAT EMBASSY (TELEPHONE CALLS FOR HELP WENT UNANSWERED) AND WAS UNDERTAKEN TO DEFLECT PUBLIC ATTENTION IN ZAIRE FROM FACT OF INTERVENTION BY NATO COUNTRIES (END UNCLASSIFIED).

3. COMMENT: ITEM DESCRIBED ABOVE, ON ATTACK ON SOVIET EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, IS WRITTEN IN OFFICIAL STYLE AND MAY REPRESENT TEXT OF A NOTE SENT BY SOVIETS TO ZAIRIANS ON THE INCIDENT. WE NOTE A DECIDED SHIFT IN SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT AWAY FROM FACT

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OF SHABA EVENTS - EVEN PRESENTED AS INTERNAL
DEVELOPMENT - AND TOWARD ALLEGED U.S. ROLE AS PLANNER
AND ORGANIZER OF MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH HAS BEEN
CARRIED OUT IN NATO CONTEXT.

4. OREKHOV'S ARTICLE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, CONTINUES
UNUSUAL, PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH
FIRST SURFACED IN SIGNIFICANT MANNER IN MAY 21
PRAVDA ARTICLE BY A. SERBIN. ANY ARTICLE IN PRAVDA
CARRIES A CERTAIN MEASURE OF AUTHORITY AND WE ASSUME
THAT THESE SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT WOULD
NOT BE PERMITTED WITHOUT POLICY GUIDANCE AND APPROVAL
FROM HIGHER POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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